

3,000 PEOPLE
Will read this issue of
THE PILOT!

Panama City Pilot

Are you a Subscriber?
Do you Advertise?
TRY THE PILOT!

Vol. 1.

Panama City, Washington County, Florida, October 10th, 1907.

No. 20

Beach Combing.

Martin G. Post, of St Andrew, was a Panama City visitor Tuesday.

R. M. Henderson was a pleasant caller at the PILOT office Monday.

B. F. Thompson, of St Andrew, was a caller at the PILOT office Monday.

Dr Lee of Millville has made several professional calls here during the past week.

Dr Wall left on yesterdays Tarpon for Apalachicola, en route to his home in Bronwood, Ga.

Capt F. H. Ware and Mr Seoniers, of Bay Head, were transacting business here yesterday.

Mrs M. B. Jenks, of St Andrew, has been here since Sunday aiding and caring for her son Marion.

Dr Mitchell, of St Andrew, has been making professional calls here several times during the past week.

Deputy Sheriff Hogeboom was busy Monday summoning witnesses for the coming term of the County court.

Sam Hillman was a passenger on yesterdays Tarpon bound for Apalachicola. He is expected home on to morrows boat.

Mrs Dobb, of Cromanton, has been acting as nurse for the past week for Mrs Green, who is slowly recovering from her illness.

Dr Wall, of Bronwood, Ga., is a visitor here this week. The many friends of the doctor are urging him to locate in this section of the country.

Mrs S. Fenters, of Farmdale, has been stopping with her son G. L. Fenters the past week while Mrs G. L. Fenters has been absent buying goods.

Clifton Williams of Brinson, Ga., who has been visiting at H. H. Mocks for the past week or so, left on yesterdays Tarpon for his home going via Apalachicola.

Marion B. Jenks has been quite ill during the past week, a sufferer from bronchial asthma aggravated by a severe cold. We are pleased to state that he is now improving.

Mrs G. L. Fenters was an out bound passenger on Fridays Tarpon, bound for Mobile and Pensacola, where she will purchase a stock of goods for the new store of Fenters & Co., which is now about completed.

H. H. Mock returned yesterday from Round Lake, having taken Mr Gregory to that point on the railway. He reports good progress being made on the railroad, the steam shovel working, pile driving going on at the Econfina crossing, and the grading about complete to Young & Cos still.

Quite a number of traveling men were noted at the hotel last evening. Among the number were J. E. Bell, representing the American Tobacco Co., of Pensacola; A. H. Abrahams representative of the Southern Hat Co., of Savannah, Ga.; N. Eisenberg, of the same place; Messrs Johnson, and Hancock, of Pensacola.

Sam Hillman took Mr Crawford to the railroad on Thursday last. Mr Hillman reports meeting Mr Domer and other railway men along the railway, and that they stated that work was progressing as favorably as could be expected with the heavy rain fall which we have had. The contractor on the Econfina trestle reports that they will complete work there in 3 or 4 weeks.

As yet but few fish are being taken, and the fishermen are anxiously awaiting a run of mullet to better conditions. It is expected that they will begin to run this coming week. An old and expert bay fisherman expressed his opinion that the lack of fish in the bay was owing to the large amount of rain we have had the past two months, making the bay water that fresh that the mullet have remained in deeper salt gulf water.

Capt F. A. Witherill took a trip to Pensacola on Fridays Tarpon, to look after lost and delayed railway freight consigned to Bay parties. He returned yesterday having secured quite an assortment, some for the PILOT that has been on the L. & N. R. R. since May last en route from Nashville. It was paper, for use in getting out our paper. It looks as though it had passed through a cyclone, and also been used in carpeting the warehouse floor.

Some Early Maps of St Andrews Bay.

From quite an extensive collection of copies of old maps in our possession we this week lay before the readers of the PILOT copies of three. The first is that of 1529, the so called Verrazano map showing a group of islands at the entrance of a bay which from its position as regards the trend of the peninsula of Florida in this section of the Gulf, possibly represented the islands then off the entrance to St Andrews Bay. This is further corroborated by the fact that no other bay had islands at its mouth, and at that time as is shown by other maps later, there were several islands at the entrance to this bay.

Map making at that date as far as delineating correctly any portion of this country cannot be expected. No attention was given to locating prominent landmarks, and as has been said by more than one of those early navigators,

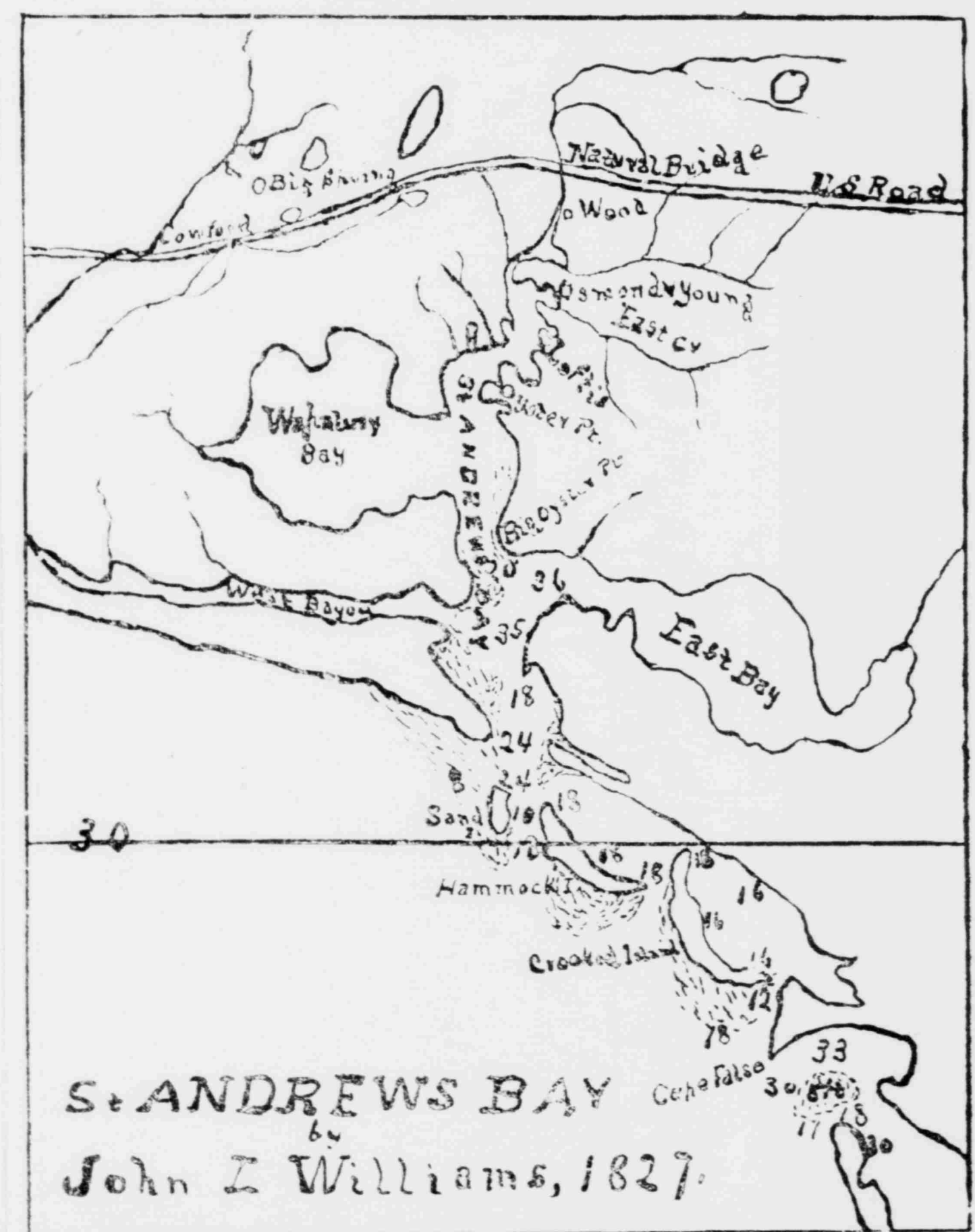
the entire shore line was low and looked alike. However it will be noted that whoever drew the Verrazano map had a clear conception of the peninsula of Florida, and of the islands at its southern extremity.

The next map shown is dated 1540, and does not show the peninsula as correctly as does the earlier map. The feature on it of interest to a study

of this coast is the name "Costa Deforsairs," marked on the bend in the coast line to the westward, showing it to have been the point where Narvarex built his ships, and began that voyage toward Mexico, in 1528, that resulted so disastrously. That point has been fairly well located as near St Marks, and the map shows that the land next to the westward, with a river or bay intervening, was called Costa Verde, the English for green coast, possibly so named from the appearance it gave to a voyager from the numerous palms that fringed the shores.

The third map was made by John Lee Williams, one of the Commissioners appointed to locate the seat of government of Florida, and who as stated by himself "for his own satisfaction made a minute survey of the coast from St Andrews Bay to the Suwanee, as well as the interior of the country in which Tallahassee is situated." Mr Williams had been a resident of Florida since 1820, and had made for the time an exhaustive study of West Florida. In 1827 he published a book entitled "A View of West Florida" containing charts and the map of St Andrews Bay a copy of which is presented herewith.

It will be noticed that great changes have taken place at the entrance of the bay since that date. Williams describes the islands as follows: "Opposite the mouth of St Andrews Bay are three small islands; the first is Sand Island, three miles from the shore and about one mile in length. Except some bunches of tall grass (uviola latifolia) and some scurvy grass,



or as it is called here sea kale, it is totally barren. During the summer it is wholly covered with the eggs of sea fowl. A shoal extends from the shore to the island except a narrow channel in which there is eight feet of water.

Hammock Island commences a mile and one-fourth east of Sand Island, and extends parallel with the coast, six miles; it is quite narrow and has no timber, but is covered with the same kind of tall grass. Immediately after passing either end of the island, vessels may anchor in perfect safety, close along the shore. A ridge of low sand hills extends along the west side of this island. On Gauld's chart this and Sand Island are laid down as forming the west part of St Andrews—and Crooked Island, alone, is laid as separate from the shore. It is not improbable that these islands have been separated by some late eruption.

Crooked Island lies south of the latter. Its northeast point approaches very near to the shore, past which however, there is a deep channel. It is nearly as long as Hummock Island, but lies in the form of a crescent. It is half a mile wide at the north end, but becomes narrower at the south end. This island has on it a considerable growth of pine trees. Between Sand and Hummock Islands the channel is more than half a mile wide. To enter, sail within a mile of the center of the island, where the channel opens between a shoal one mile below Sand Island and another shoal which stretches west from the centre of Hummock Island. After entering between these two shoals, run within a quarter of a mile of Hummock Island, then haul up north. If you wish to enter the bay pass close to the northeast point of Sand Island."

Big and Little Oyster points had already been thus named, presumably from their having for a long time previous been noted locations for oysters. The only settlers shown upon the bay at that time were Loftis, or Loftins, and Osmond & Young, probably Osborne & Young, all of whom were located near Gay. West Bay was then Wapaluxy Bay. The United States road through West Florida then crossed the Econfina at what was called the Natural Bridge, just below which a Mr Wood lived. To the westward crossing some stream was the Cowford.

John Lee Williams wrote much about Saint Andrews Bay, and was very enthusiastic over it. He calls it "one of the finest Harbors on the Gulf Coast", and he anticipated that at some future time it would be a very important port. At that date the lower portion of the peninsula was almost unknown, and the Commissioners in selecting the site for the capitol evidently gave but little heed to other than the portion of the state that was known and being settled from St Augustine on the East to Pensacola on the West, choosing a place half way between the two.

Death of Thomas Gwaltney.

On Wednesday afternoon, October 9th, Thomas Gwaltney passed away at his residence near Old Town. Though he has been failing for some time his death was unexpected, and was hastened by an illness that set in but last week. His burial occurred at 10 o'clock this morning.

Mr Gwaltney was born in North Carolina in 1826. He was married on January 18th, 1855, to Miss Pearcey Coley, a Georgia girl, whom he survived but a few years. There were eight children born to this couple, six of whom are still living, namely J. C. Gwaltney, W. F. Gwaltney, Robert Gwaltney, John T. Gwaltney, H. W. Gwaltney, and F. H. Gwaltney. Mr Gwaltney was crippled so that he was not subject to service during the war but being a cooper was employed in the Confederate service in that capacity. After the war he returned to Jackson county, and from there he came to the bay country some 40 years ago, and has lived here ever since.

Thomas Gwaltney was a gentleman of the old school. Always kind and courteous, conscientious and generous, and a consistent member of the Methodist church of which he had long been a member. His was a pioneer's life in this country; a life filled with hard work and many sacrifices, but aided by his helpful and loyal wife they brought up a family under many difficulties with credit and honor. All who knew him respected and loved him and his death will sadden many hearts.

Large Land Sale.

The J. P. Williams Co. owning large tracts of land in this section have sold 40,000 acres for \$300,000. Just where this land is located we are unable to say, but as they own large tracts around West bay it may be possible that it is a portion of some of those. If so working it for naval stores will bring an increase of business to this bay.

A Hogeboom has bought out the grocery stock of McKenzie & Co., and there is talk of organizing a stock company to handle the grocery business here, with A. Hogeboom in charge.

Farmdale.

October 2.

Capt Dyer and family were pleasant callers here Sunday.

H. H. Sewell and W. A. Brooks, of Willis, gave us a call Sunday.

Lawyer Wilkerson, of Millville, stopped over night here recently en route to Wewahatchka.

Lawyer Wilkerson, Dr Lee and August Franz, of Millville, were business callers here Saturday.

The ice cream supper and dance was an entire success. If it had not been a rainy evening the hotel would not have held the crowd that intended to come.

F. M. Lupton, the light house keeper was up yesterday. His horse got frightened at a launch and two men rowing a boat and it was all he could do to hold him.

Capt Davis with his big boat Cuba loaded with lumber and a barge load of lumber in tow left Allenton Wednesday for Sandy Creek. On account of inclement weather he never got back until last night.

It seems that there are a good many people on the bay that do not know there is a hotel at Farmdale, as Mr White, of Millville, has just informed us he could have brought several parties here if he had known there was a hotel here to accommodate them.

Capt White brought up a party of men from Millville Saturday. They did not seem to mind the rain and wind. The heaviest rain here this year fell Friday and Saturday, accompanied with high wind and tides, but there was no damage done except to debar some of the party folk from getting home until Sunday.

October 8th.

Mr Woodford is having his launch Sibyl repaired.

Mr Lupton, our genial light house keeper came up Saturday for a load of supplies.

Mr Davis took another load of freight up Wetappo Creek Friday, for the Hardy Turpentine Co.

Oysters and mullet are fine and plentiful now. Mr Shermer stands on the wharf and catches mullet just for the fun of it.

Mr Wilkerson, life insurance agent of Pensacola, was here recently and seemingly enjoyed catching the fine fish—yes, and eating them to.

Mr Ed Wilson says when he gets his new boat completed it will be the "Cracker Jack" launch of the bay. He expects to launch her in a few days.

Mrs Caraway returned yesterday from St Andrew where she went to meet her daughter who was expected to arrive on the Tarpon from Apalachicola.

Capt White, of Millville, brought up some men yesterday who are engaged in rafting up the scattered logs that escaped from the boom in Sandy Creek.

Mr Morgan, who has just returned from up the country, says the engineers of the B. C. & St A. R. R. are surveying the road from Bay Head by Farmdale to St Joe.

Jury List.

The following is a list of jurors drawn to serve at the fall term of the Washington county Circuit Court, which convenes at Vernon November 4th.

J. C. Harrell,	R. Alex Barfield,
W. J. Jones,	J. A. McKeithen,
W. A. Hill, Jr	Ed McCrackin,
Jeff Davis	W. G. T. Owens
J. G. Davis	John R. Martin
W. F. Russ	Munton Shipes
J. S. Melvin	Edward Roche
J. L. Hays	D. G. Raley
T. J. Rooks	John W. Parker
F. H. Ware	W. H. Fleming
Thos Mock	T. B. Young
J. B. Brown	W. D. Owens
W. P. Corbin	J. L. Mashburn
W. J. Gilbert	C. D. Davis
E. L. Pinney	John S. Levins
H. D. Davis	J. W. Williams
J. B. Hewett	A. L. Harrell
T. Collins Jr	J. M. Chestnut.

Dr. Rozier, of St Andrew, and Mr. Miller, of Bonifay, were Panama City visitors this morning.

Capt Charles Bracken, Capt DeShazo, and Capt B. F. Thompson, with their launches, were all at the Panama City dock this morning preparing to take passengers from here to various points about the bay.